

malkin soon destroyed or frightened away all the rats and mice, so that the poor boy could now sleep as sound as a top.

Soon after this, the merchant, who had a ship ready to sail, called all his servants together, as was his custom, and proposed that each should send something as a venture to try their fortune with; and whatever they sent, was to pay neither freight nor custom: every servant appeared, except Whittington, for as he had neither money nor goods, he could think of nothing to try his fortune with: but his friend, Miss Alice, thinking it was poverty that kept him back, ordered him to be called, and generously offered to lay down something for him herself, but Mr. Fitzwarren said that would not do, it must be something of his own. I have nothing in the world, said Whittington, but a cat, which I bought for a penny: Fetch the cat, my

my boy, said the merchant, and send her; which he did, but it was with tears he delivered her to the cap-



tain, for now, said he, I shall be devoured by the rats and mice as much as ever. The company laughed at the oddity of the adventure, and Miss Alice gave him money to buy another cat with.

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